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Conference on Disarmament

21 February 2014

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Letter dated 31 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Acting Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of the joint statement by interested States in support of the Conference on Disarmament delivered in the First Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement by interested States in support of the Conference on Disarmament delivered during the sixty-eighth United Nations First Committee.

I would be grateful if this letter and the attached joint statement could be issued and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(*Signed*) Alexey Borodavkin
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation

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Joint Statement by interested States in support of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Ukraine

Recalling the joint statement of like-minded States made in the First Committee of the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, we reaffirm our commitment to commencing the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament without further delay.

We are certain that tangible results in multilateral disarmament and strengthening international regimes of arms control and non-proliferation can be achieved only through taking due account of the national security priorities of each Member State within the framework of the existing multilateral disarmament mechanism, with the Conference on Disarmament being its key element.

We believe that the Conference, as the single multilateral negotiating forum with its fundamental principle of consensus and its membership, cannot be substituted by any other forum in addressing the complex tasks that it already has on its agenda.

We commend the efforts by all the 2013 Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament to reach a consensus on the programme of work. At the same time, we are concerned about the lack of progress in this regard.

We welcome the establishment of the Informal Working Group on the elaboration and adoption of a programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament. We hope that this decision could assist in finding a mutually acceptable solution.

We call on the States participating in the work of the Conference to come to an agreement on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work and resume its substantive work on the key agenda items – nuclear disarmament, a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, prevention of an arms race in outer space, effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons – in accordance with its rules of procedure. Pending the adoption of such a programme of work, structured and result-oriented discussions are to be encouraged in the Conference.

We call on all States concerned to make, with full responsibility, further efforts in order to unblock the work of the Conference.